curbing the illegal trade in wild animals and animal articles in India. However, some cases of attempted illegal trade in animal skins have come to the notice of the Government.

(c) and (d) The number of cases of attempted illegal trade reported by the four Regional Offices of Wildlife Preservation at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras and the persons arrested during 1994 are as follows:—

Centre	No. of Cases detected	No. of persons arrested
Calcutta	4	Nil
Bombay	5	Nil
Delhi	3	3
Madras	16	Nil

Action has been initiated against the offenders in accordance with the provisions of the relevant laws.

(e) At present there is no proposal to amend the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

'Findings of the C.P.C.B. on Toxic Flames'

2431. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, following the deaths of some persons due to toxic flames from burning scrap in a residential colony in Delhi, a team of the Central Pollution Control Board, led by Dr. Dilip Biswas, investigated the incident;

(b) if so, what are the findings of the team and the recommendations made; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Central Pollution Control Board has conducted an investigation into the toxic gas discharge at Kardampuri, East Delhi. According to the report, toxic fumes were produced during early morning hours of 13th November, 1994 and the presence of volatile compounds of selenium, cadmium, lead, zinc, iron and oxides of nitrogen in the toxic gas had been identified. The presence of cyanide and sulphates is likely to have aggravated the toxicity of the discharged gas. It is apprehended that the toxic gas fumes were produced during the crude method of refining/recovery of metals from metalic scrap/powders by a scrap dealer.

The Central Pollution Control Board team led by their Chairman visited the site and adjoining affected areas. Samples of soil, deposition scratch, raw material, leachates were taken and analysed to ascertain the source and likely composition of the gas discharged.

(c) Central Government have asked the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Central Pollution Control Board to take actions urgently which include the following:—

(i) To prohibit the indiscriminate burning of hazardous wastes in the open.

(ii) To prohibit storage and handling of hazardous substances in unauthorised places.

(iii) To identify local persons in communities and entrust with the responsibility of ensuring that such practices are not permitted; and

(iv) To urgently identify sites for disposal of hazardous wastes after conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment.

Demand of Tiger-bone products

2432. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report of the World Wildlife Fund,